

atoms,

- the term "alkoxy" denotes an alkyl-oxy in which the alkyl chain, which is linear or branched, has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

- the term "aryl" denotes phenyl or biphenyl,

5 - the term "polyhaloalkyl" denotes a linear or branched carbon chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and from 1 to 7 halogen atoms,

- the term "heteroaryl" denotes a group having from 5 to 11 ring members which is monocyclic or bicyclic, in which at least one of the rings is aromatic, and which contains in the monocyclic ring system or in the bicyclic ring system 1, 2 or 3 hetero atoms
10 selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, and

- the expression "optionally substituted" associated with the expressions aryl and hetero-aryl means that the groups in question are substituted by one or two identical or different substituents selected from halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, polyhaloalkyl, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino (optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups) and -C(O)R_d wherein R_d
15 represents a group selected from hydroxy, alkoxy and amino, it being understood that the heteroaryl may also be substituted by an oxo moiety on the non-aromatic moiety of the heteroaryl.

17- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein the representation



20 18- (currently amended) A compound of ~~either claim~~ Claim 16, wherein R¹ represents hydrogen.

19- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R² represents hydrogen.

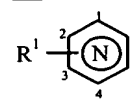
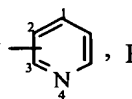
20- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R² represents a group R²⁰-C(O)-.

25 21- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R³ represents hydrogen.

22- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R²⁰ represents alkoxy.

23- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein n represents an integer from 4 to 6 inclusive.

24- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein

 represents , R¹ represents hydrogen, R² represents hydrogen or a group R²⁰-C(O)-, wherein R²⁰ represents alkoxy, and n is 4 or 5.

25- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, which is 3-cycloheptyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-2-amine.

26- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, which is 3-cyclooctyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-2-amine.

27- (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition useful as an AMPK activator, comprising as active principle and effective amount of a compound as claimed in Claim 16, together with one or more inert, non-toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or vehicles.

28- (previously presented) A method for treating a living animal body, including a human, afflicted with a condition selected from non-insulin-dependent, type II diabetes, obesity, type I diabetes, hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, including a human, an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

29- (previously presented) A method for treating a living animal body, including a human, afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, including a human, an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the

condition.

30- (previously presented) A method for treating a living animal body, including a human, afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, including a human, an amount of a compound of
5 Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.